

Project Name:

Blackfeet Nation Tribal Center Project

Recipient:

Blackfeet Nation

Address:

640 All Chiefs Road, Browning, MT 59417

Amount Required:

\$30,000,000

Project Explanation:

Funding would support the Blackfeet Nation in building a multi-use Tribal Center dedicated to improving socioeconomic outcomes for at-risk youths and assisting the senior population. With more than 37% of the Blackfeet people living at or below the poverty line, the Blackfeet Nation is one of the poorest and most rural tribal nations in the United States, and economic development faces many hurdles. In 2022, the Tribal Business Council declared a State of Emergency due to the opioid epidemic, predominantly because of the flood of fentanyl onto the reservation. The multi-use Center would be focused on improving outcomes for all people with a focus on at-risk youths and seniors. The Center will allow youths to have a safe, drug-free, and stable place to spend time after school and during the summer months, space and resources to complete homework, a job training and services center, classes and services for seniors, and provide a technology lab with reliable broadband access for the Blackfeet.

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2601

March 31, 2023

The Honorable Kay Granger
Chairwoman
House Appropriations Committee
H-307, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Committee
1036 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Blackfeet Nation Tribal Center Project

Dear Chairwoman Granger and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for the Blackfeet Nation Tribal Center Project in Fiscal Year 2024.

The entity to receive funding for this project is the Blackfeet Tribe of the Blackfeet Indian Reservation, located at 640 All Chiefs Road, Browning, MT 59417.

The funding would be used to support the Blackfeet Nation in building a multi-use Tribal Center dedicated to improving socioeconomic outcomes for at-risk Youths and assisting the senior population. With more than 37% of the Blackfeet people living at or below the poverty line, the project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because the Blackfeet Nation is one of the poorest and most rural tribal nations in the United States, and economic development faces many hurdles. In 2022 the Tribal Business Council declared a State of Emergency due to the opioid epidemic, predominantly because of the flood of fentanyl on to the reservation. The multi-use Center would be focused on improving outcomes for all people with a focus on at-risk youths and seniors. The Center will allow youths to have a safe, drug-free, and stable place to spend time after school and during the summer months, space and resources to complete homework, a job training and services center, classes, and services for seniors, and provide a technology lab with reliable broadband access for the Blackfeet.

The project has a Federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by 42 U.S.C. 5305(a)(2).

I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,

Ryan K. Zinke

Ryan Zinke
Member of Congress